The participants have agreed to provide information concerning their domestic policies and trade measures including bilateral and plurilateral commitments on the basis of Parts G and H of the Questionnaire (Rule 16 of the Rules of Procedure). The documents containing replies to these parts of the Questionnaire are circulated under the symbol IMC/INV; they will be revised as and when changes are notified.

This set of documents constitutes the inventory of all measures affecting trade in bovine meat, including commitments resulting from bilateral, plurilateral and multilateral negotiations, which the Council has instructed the secretariat to draw up and keep up to date, under the provisions of Article III of the Agreement (Note to Article III of the Arrangement and Rule 18 of the Rules of Procedure).

Note: The following pages replace page 7 of IMC/INV/11/Rev.1
PART H

Part H. Bilateral or Plurilateral Agreements in the Field of Bovine Animals, Meat and Offals

A Meat Import Act has been passed by Parliament and came into effect on 11 February 1982.

The Act allows the Minister of Agriculture, with the concurrence of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, to establish annual beef import levels on the basis of a prescribed formula and certain other considerations. The formula, which largely parallels that in the United States Meat Import Law, incorporates an adjustment for changes in domestic disappearance and also a countercyclical adjustment to offset the cyclical pattern of domestic beef supplies. However, import levels may not be set below the Guaranteed Minimum Access Commitment (GMAC) agreed during the GATT Tokyo Round negotiations (139.2 million pounds in 1980, subsequently adjusted annually for population growth). The Act also has provision for increasing the permitted import level if exporting countries agree to restrain their exports of beef to Canada. In addition, the legislation provides that the import level generated by the formula may be adjusted or suspended, if, for example:

(1) the supply of beef and other meats is inadequate to meet domestic demand at reasonable prices; or

(2) the United States suspends import restrictions under the United States Meat Import Law and suspends operation of bilateral meat restraint agreements; or

(3) there are other major factors which would suggest that the import level generated by the formula should be adjusted.

On 19 August 1983, the Canadian Government concluded an arrangement with the United States with respect to trade in beef and veal between the two countries for the remainder of 1983. Under the arrangement, Canada anticipates that its exports of beef and veal to the United States will not exceed 58.9 million kg. (130 million lbs.) in 1983. Similarly, the United States expects its exports of beef and veal to Canada will not exceed 10.4 million kg. (23 million lbs.).

The arrangement was negotiated after the United States asked the principal exporters to the United States - Australia, New Zealand and Canada - to voluntarily restrain their exports for the balance of 1983 so as not to trigger import quotas under the United States Meat Import Law. The United States has agreed to consider periodically the reallocation of any expected shortfalls in shipments from other countries beginning mid-October so that Canadian exports to the United States could exceed the 58.9 million kg. (130 million lbs.) level. To implement the arrangement, export permits are required for all exports of fresh, chilled and frozen beef and veal to the United States effective 22 August 1983.

See copy of the Meat Act annexed to IMC/INV/11/Rev.1
At present, Canadian imports of beef and veal are not expected to exceed 61-63.5 million kg. (135-140 million pounds) in 1983. This is well below the guaranteed minimum access commitment of 65.2 million kg. (143.6 million lbs.) agreed during the GATT Tokyo Round negotiations and provided for in the Canadian Meat Import Act. However, to guard against the possibility that the United States action might result in diversion with consequent disruption of the Canadian market, effective 22 August 1983, all imports of fresh, chilled, and frozen beef and veal from all sources require an individual import permit as provided for under the Export and Import Permits Act. Import permits are being issued freely to provide day-to-day monitoring. However, if imports increase significantly, they can be limited under the provisions of the Meat Import Act.